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Senators Encouraged by Revisions in C.I.A. Order

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 — Several members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said today that they were heartened by the Reagan Administration's apparent willingness to adopt several revisions to a draft executive order governing intelligence activities.

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, vice chairman of the subcommittee that initially reviewed the proposal, said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the White House would adopt many of the changes the committee recommended. They included eliminating a provision that

would authorize the Central Intelligence Agency to infiltrate and influence domestic organizations.

"This is the most encouraged I've been since becoming vice chairman that the Administration is willing to cooperate with the committee to produce document we all can live with," Mr. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, said by telephone from his hospital bed. He is recovering from a horseback-riding accident last week.

Senator Harrison H. Schmitt, Republican of New Mexico, chairman of the subcommittee, said in an interview that cooperation with the White House was now "excellent." However, he stressed that President Reagan had "strong views" about the necessity of strengthening the nation's intelligence capabilities and added, "The final count on the order is not in."

Carter Order Is Redrafted

The White House, in an effort to bolster intelligence capabilities, has redrafted the order signed by President Carter in January 1978 that would restrict domestic spying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As a courtesy, the Administration sent copies of its third draft, which it said was final, to

the Congressional oversight panels.

President Reagan could sign the order next week.

Two weeks ago, the Senate committee unanimously endorsed and sent to the White House several revisions to the proposed executive order, which would have the force of law when signed by Mr. Reagan. An aide to Senator David Durenberger, Republican of Minnesota, said today that while the latest changes did not "respond to all of the committee's concerns," negotiations were "ongoing" for additional changes.

Two Senators said, for example, that they still objected to a provision that would authorize the C.I.A. to collect foreign intelligence inside the United States, although the Administration had agreed to restrict such collection to "significant" information and to state that such activities were the primary responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Senators said they were also concerned that the order would permit the C.I.A. to conduct covert actions domestically, even though the White House had agreed to require that the House and Senate oversight panels be informed of all such actions.

Senator Leahy said he and Mr. Durenberger would "go to the mat" if the White House ultimately declined to adopt other provisions to protect civil liberties.

"But for the time being, I'm willing to wait and see that the White House does," Mr. Leahy said. "They've been very cooperative so far."

Senate sources said that Administration officials told the committee late this week that they were willing to eliminate a section of the order that would permit the agency to infiltrate and influence American groups for "lawful purposes." They also said they were considering restoring a provision of Mr. Carter's order that permitted the C.I.A. to investigate only its own past and present employees and contractors.

The Administration, the sources said, has also agreed to eliminate language implying that the President has inherent power to order domestic break-ins and electronic surveillance without either a warrant or reason to believe that the surveillance target is acting on behalf of a foreign power.